

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 EA-07 NEA-10 USIA-06
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R 031628Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0062
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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FOR USEEC
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD, BE, EEC
SUBJECT: FIRST UNCTAD PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON COTTON, JUNE 20-24

REF: STATE 119870

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH MALBRECQ OF THE RAW MATERIALS
DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SAID THAT THE BELGIAN POSITION
ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL COTTON ACCORD IS STILL
OPEN. THE BELGIANS INTEND TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE EC WORKING
GROUP MEETING (SEE USEC 5489--THE MEETING IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 9,

ACCORDING TO MALBRECQ) AND IN THE FIRST PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ITSELF
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BEFORE DECIDING ON THEIR POLICY. MALBRECQ IS SURE, IN ANY CASE, THAT
BELGIUM WILL FOLLOW ANY EC CONSENSUS. IF BELGIUM DOES EVENTUALLY
OPT FOR AN ACCORD, HOWEVER, IT WOULD INSIST THAT IT BE CARRIED OUT
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(ICAC). MALBRECQ SAID THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT FULLY SHARES THE
U.S. VIEW OF ICAC AS A USEFUL AND VIABLE ORGANIZATION WHICH SHOULD
CONTINUE AND EVEN BE REINFORCED.

2. MALBRECQ ADDED THAT: (A) THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (MR. SCHELLEKENS) HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ICAC HEADQUARTERS ABOUT THE SUBJECT MEETING; (B) THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY REPORTS OF PRODUCER MEETINGS LAST APRIL (IN CAIRO) AND ONE UPCOMING IN MEXICO CITY WHICH SEEM TO INDICATE A MOOD OF CONFRONTATION RATHER THAN COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRY COTTON EXPORTERS.

3. THE BELGIAN DELEGATION TO THE SUBJECT MEETING WILL CONSIST OF POSWICK OF THE BELGIAN PERMDEL IN GENEVA; MALBRECQ; AND VAN MOL, A TECHNICAL EXPERT FROM THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

4. THE AGATT OFFICE HAS ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH INFORMALLY WITH THE BELGIAN COTTON INDUSTRY. LIENART, THE DIRECTOR OF THE COTTON SPINNERS AND COTTON ASSOCIATIONS, SAID THAT HIS GROUP PLANS TO WORK THROUGH THE EC INDUSTRY FEDERATION EUROCOTTON RATHER THAN THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IN PRESENTING ITS POINT OF VIEW AT GENEVA. THIS VIEW IS OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF INTERNATIONAL BUFFER STOCKS IN COTTON, FAVORING THE CURRENT FREE MARKET SITUATION. GIVEN THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADE IN TEXTILES, THE INDUSTRY REGARDS THE COTTON NEGOTIATIONS AS ESSENTIALLY AN EC RATHER THAN MEMBER STATE EXERCISE, AND WILL APPROACH THEM IN THAT VEIN. RENNER

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